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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/)

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## **Sen. Gilbert pushes pier safety**

**LANSING** – Troubled by the number of pier-related deaths in Michigan, Sen. Jud Gilbert announced a Republican effort to raise awareness about pier safety and crack down on the theft of life preservers on piers.

As part of a legislative package, Gilbert is sponsoring a bill that would make it a felony for tampering or stealing a marine safety device if its absence results in serious injury or death. Punishment would be imprisonment of up to 15 years or a \$10,000 fine.

“Since Michigan’s piers are open to the public to walk on, we need to ensure there are adequate rescue devices available in the event of an accident,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “Stealing a life preserver is unthinkable, yet it is becoming an all-too-common prank. Imposing strict penalties for this crime should deter it from happening.”

Also part of the package are two resolutions urging the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to increase public awareness and notification of rip currents in the Great Lakes and calling on the Michigan Department of Education to teach pupils about the dangers of rip currents and learn basic pier safety.

Another bill would make it a misdemeanor for anyone who tampers with or steals a marine-safety device maintained by the state or a local government.

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